## OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA** 

JOYCE E. DUDLEY District Attorney



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APPROVED BY DYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTYRNEY

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\*\*\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\*\*\*

August 11, 2015

## FedEx Ground Package System, Inc. to Pay \$1.75 Million Settlement for Environmental Violations

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley, along with the district attorneys of Sacramento, San Diego, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Butte, Humboldt, and Solano counties, announced today that Sacramento County Superior Court Judge Raymond M. Cadei has ordered FedEx Ground Package System, Inc. to pay \$1,750,000 in civil penalties, costs, and supplemental environmental projects for the company's illegal transportation and storage of hazardous waste and unlawful business practices.

The complaint was filed on July 1, 2014, after a lengthy investigation into FedEx Ground's handling of damaged, broken, or leaking packages containing hazardous materials. Beginning in 2010, regulators from San Diego, Sacramento, and Los Angeles counties had responded to hazardous material incidents at FedEx Ground Facilities. Further investigation revealed that FedEx Ground was not immediately identifying hazardous waste, and was improperly transporting and storing the waste prior to disposal. While FedEx Ground disputed these claims, FedEx Ground was cooperative in the investigation and has corrected all of the alleged violations.

Under the terms of the negotiated \$1.75 million final judgment, FedEx Ground agreed to pay \$1.5 million in civil penalties, \$155,000 in investigative costs to the involved agencies, \$85,000 for environmental programs, and will expend \$10,000 toward working with its customers on a waste minimization program. The Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office will receive \$37,500 in civil penalties. The stipulated judgment covers all 36 FedEx Ground facilities in California and provides that FedEx Ground will be bound by the terms of a permanent injunction requiring compliance with California's hazardous waste and hazardous materials laws.

District Attorney Dudley stated, "Thanks to the collaborative efforts of the district attorneys and investigators throughout the state, businesses operating in California are well aware of their environmental responsibilities and the fact that we will zealously prosecute environment crimes and seek civil remedies in order to ensure that our pristine environment is protected."

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